Forests.—As compared with the revised estimate of Rs. 3,22,800, the budget estimate is fixed at Rs. 3,75,800, thus exceeding the former by Rs. 53,000. This increase is mainly contributed by the more extensive operations anticipated next year and the provision made for sending two students for training in Forestry to Dehra Dun in the coming year.

Last year, when speaking about the question of the continuance of the Tramway I had occasion to observe that the Government were considering the question of conducting a careful reconnoitring survey of the areas tapped by the Tramway to fully explore the possibility of the existence of any more valuable species of timber. The survey was accordingly conducted in the course of the year and the interim report of the Special Officer appointed for the purpose is now in the hands of the Government. In the course of his long report the Special Officer points out: "Trees estimated to yield 50,000 candies of exploitable timber of which 28,000 are teak and rose-wood and the rest superior jungle-wood have already been numbered and listed and with this quantity there is not likely to be much difficulty in maintaining the Tramway at a decided profit for the next four or five years provided there is no big fall in the price of timber. In the course of that period the reconnoitring and estimation of the possibility of the whole area tappable by the existing Tramway or its possible extension may be undertaken and preliminary working plan prepared which would automatically solve the problem of the Tramway, at least as far as the Forest Department is concerned. The period of certainty regarding profitable working of the Tramway in the immediate future, which may now be taken as four or five years on the basis of the results of listing so far done, may still further be prolonged by arranging for the continuance of listing work as a normal part of the routine of the O. W. C. staff. Generally speaking, the net result of the present work may be considered to be that, while it helps to provide for the requirements of the immediate future, it affords time for further investigation of all the aspects of the question before arriving at a final decision on the basis of well-ascertained data". I have quoted the conclusion *in extenso* so that the House may be in possession of the full facts of the case. The report has been received only very lately and the Government have not passed any orders; but, based on the conclusions of the reconnoitring officer, provision has been made for the continuance of the Tramway and for the purchase of the essential locomotives, etc., for its maintenance.

General Administration.—The only remark that has to be offered is that provision has been made for the continuance

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